

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY EA/ANP:MAGMICHAUD:RLW

APPROVED BY EA:WHGLEYSTEEN

S/S - MR. LUERS

WHITE HOUSE:MR. FROEBE

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

S E C R E T STATE 241316

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AS, OVIP, PFOR

SUBJECT: WHITLAM VISIT TO US

EYES ONLY FOR AMBASSADOR

FOLLOWING IS SUMMARY OF CONVERSATION AT WHITE HOUSE
OCTOBER 4 BETWEEN PRESIDENT FORD AND PM WHITLAM: QUOTE:

AFTER OPENING PLEASANTRIES AND SHORT PHOTOGRAPHY SESSION,
PRIME MINISTER WHITLAM INVITED PRESIDENT FORD TO VISIT
AUSTRALIA DURING HIS NOVEMBER VISIT TO JAPAN. PRESIDENT
INDICATED HIS INTEREST IN VISITING THE COUNTRY, BUT WAS
NON-COMMITTAL AS TO WHEN HE WOULD BE ABLE TO MAKE THE TRIP.

PRESIDENT COMPLIMENTED PRIME MINISTER WHITLAM ON HIS UNGA
SPEECH, NOTING THAT THE PRIME MINISTER'S THOUGHTS ON FOOD
AID WERE SIMILAR TO THOSE HE HAD EXPRESSED. IN REPLY TO
QUESTION FROM THE PRESIDENT REGARDING TRADE, PRIME MINISTER
EXPLAINED THAT AUSTRALIAN EXPORTS CONSIST PRIMARILY OF
PASTORAL PRODUCTS SUCH AS WOOL AND MEAT AND MINERALS SUCH
AS IRON, COAL AND LEAD. INTERNALLY, AUSTRALIA'S ECONOMY

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IS LINKED TO MANUFACTURING, BUT EXTERNALLY IT IS LARGELY

DEPENDENT ON AGRICULTURE AND MINERALS. PRIME MINISTER BELIEVED AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION COULD BE INCREASED THROUGH IRRIGATION, BUT THAT IT TAKES A GREAT DEAL OF CAPITAL AND, ONCE THE CAPITAL IS PUT IN, THE COSTS GET VERY HIGH.

THE PRESIDENT REASSURED PRIME MINISTER WHITLAM THAT US FOREIGN POLICY UNDER HIS ADMINISTRATION WOULD REMAIN THE SAME AS IT WAS UNDER THE PREVIOUS ADMINISTRATION.

HE NOTED THAT THE US WILL REMAIN STRONG IN NATO AND THAT US RELATIONS WITH AUSTRALIA ARE PART OF THE US WORLDWIDE POLICY OF CONSTRUCTIVE COOPERATION WITH ALL NATIONS.
END QUOTE. INGERSOLL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, HEAD OF GOVERNMENT VISITS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 NOV 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: smithrj
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE241316
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: MAGMICAUD:RLW
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740314-0396
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741176/aaaacmui.tel
Line Count: 74
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: smithrj
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08 JUL 2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <18 MAR 2003 by smithrj>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: WHITLAM VISIT TO US EYES ONLY FOR AMBASSADOR
TAGS: OVIP, PFOR, AS, US, (FORD, GERALD R), (WHITLAM, E GOUGH)
To: CANBERRA
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005